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## *Further CIA Abuses*

Another apparently illegal activity by the Central Intelligence Agency has come to light with the disclosure that the agency used intelligence satellites in the late 1960s to spy on American students engaged in anti-war demonstrations. Although the 1947 law setting up the CIA explicitly forbade it to exercise law enforcement or internal security functions, the agency undertook its domestic spying on the pretext that it was looking for "possible foreign connections with the U.S. anti-war movement." None was found.

Whatever the excuse was for spying on citizens, the operation — ordered at the request of the Johnson White House — was clearly not a proper one for the CIA. It represented an interference with what was supposed to be a constitutionally protected activity. This undermining of citizen rights is only the latest example of many such CIA excesses. It was exposed through documents obtained through a suit under the Freedom of Information Act.

Yet the CIA is trying to get itself more broadly exempted from compliance with the FOI law. And it is resisting more stringent restraints in a projected new agency charter. Since the public still does not know how many law violations and other abuses (compiled in a 693-page internal document) have not been revealed, this is no time to weaken the FOI act. And a great deal of evidence already points to the need for a strict charter.